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## **Neil Ross of Kingston, RI, Wins Highest Award from National Marine Association** *ABBRA honors local marine industry veteran with its President's Award*

Warren, RI—Rhode Island native Neil Ross received the Dennis Snow President's Award from the American Boat Builders & Repairers Association (ABBRA) at the association's Annual Conference, held in New Bedford, Massachusetts, July 18–19, 2011.

Ross was one of six to receive a prestigious ABBRA award, offered on an annual basis and designed to recognize individuals and companies from the boatbuilding and repairing industry for their excellence throughout the year. The Dennis Snow President's Award is given annually to the individual or organization that makes a significant and lasting contribution to improving the state of the boatyard industry.

Ross received his award for a lifetime of illustrious work within the marine industry. He has acted as the executive director for the Marine Environmental Education Foundation (MEEF), has worked as a paid consultant to the USEPA and has been actively involved in forming Clean Marina programs around the country. In his career, Neil specialized in boatyard and marina environmental management, site planning, and professional development, and he has been technical advisor, consultant, and teacher for 40 years to over 2,300 industry professionals and government officials in 18 countries, 4 continents, and 44 states.

For 18 years, Ross worked for the University of Rhode Island where he created the Advanced Marina Management Course that led to his serving eight years as the founding President of the International Marina Institute. Additionally he was the Rhode Island Marine Trades Executive Director, founding President of the Marine Environmental Education Foundation and its US National Clean Boating Campaign manager. He helped author the nation's marina environmental management guidelines for the US Environmental Protection Agency, helped develop the Clean Vessel Act pump-out grant program for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and was one of the initiators of the Clean Marina recognition award program now used in over half of the states in the US.

"Neil has received many awards in his career as a leader in the marine industry and an environmental management pioneer," ABBRA President Pam Lenzion said as she presented the award. "Today we are recognizing him for all that he has contributed and will contribute to the marine industry."

ABBRA offers its congratulations to all the 2011 award winners and thanks them for their willingness to share their accomplishments with the rest of the industry. For more information on ABBRA's annual awards' categories and nominations, please visit [www.abbra.org](http://www.abbra.org).

The American Boat Builders and Repairers Association (ABBRA), founded in 1943, strengthens and encourages professionalism in the boat building and marine service industry by providing its members with timely information, training, education and business services.

**ABBRA: Dedicated to the Marine Service and Repair Industry.**

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